

KING MAY VISIT CANADA

Some Time to Be Given the Project-- Secrecy About Dreadnaught-- Big Graft in Italy.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—In colonial circles the question is already being canvassed as to the date on which their majesties will pay a state visit to the white dominions of the empire. Such a visit would be quite in accord with King George's view of his responsibilities, and the arguments in favor of it far outweigh the practical inconveniences. It is quite certain, however, that their majesties will never be able to repeat their long cruise in the Phir, and that any imperial visits that they may undertake in the future will have to be carried out piecemeal.

There is good ground for anticipating that the first dominion to receive this distinction will be Canada, but it will be quite impossible to think of such a project for the next eighteen months, at least. The question is bound up with that of the imperial wanderings of the Prince of Wales, and as to all this nothing can be said to any purpose until the King has made a careful review of the whole situation.

Secrecy About Dreadnaught.

Great secrecy is being observed by the naval authorities regarding the construction of a new super-dreadnaught battleship, at present unnamed, at Portsmouth dockyard. No pressmen or photographers were permitted to be present at the ceremony of laying the first keelplate, which was performed privately by the Hon. Evelyn Moore, sister of Admiral Sir Arthur Moore, commander-in-chief at Portsmouth. No details have been allowed to transpire as to the ship, but it is known that, besides being the largest, the new ship will also be the fastest and most powerful battleship ever laid down for the British navy. It is the first of five armored vessels provided for in the 1911-12 navy estimate. Her main armament will consist of ten 13.5-inch guns, mounted in five center-line turrets, and, although the weapons are of the same size as those in the Orion, they are of a more powerful type. The guns of the Orion fire shells of 1350 pounds; while those of the new ship and her sisters will fire 1400-pound projectiles. The result is that the new vessels will have a broadside fire of 14,000 pounds of metal, as compared with 12,500 pounds in the Orion group. The battleships of the 1912 program also mark a striking advance in the defense of British ships against the attacks of hostile torpedo craft. Instead of mounting 4-inch guns, as in earlier units, they will have 6-inch weapons for this purpose, which fire a shell of 100 pounds, as compared with only 31 pounds for the smaller gun. The reason for this is that in recent years torpedo craft have grown so rapidly. Ten years ago, when the boats displaced only about 250 to 300 tons, 12-pounder guns were regarded as sufficient to stop and disable them. When the size of destroyers increased to 500 or 600 tons the 12-pounder was abandoned in favor of the 13-pounder, and now, when 100 tons is quite an average displacement for modern torpedo craft, the 6-inch gun has become a general favorite for "stopping" purposes.

Tailors Decline War.

Some quaint tailoring revelations may be expected in the West End this summer, as the workers intend to publicly pillory all those high-class employers who charge West End prices and have their clothes made in the East End. Probably most firms will capitulate at once, as they dread exposure, but if not, both the gilded youth and society ladies will have some cold shocks.

JOBS ARE POPULAR.

PARIS, Feb. 10.—The public service is as popular in France as it is elsewhere, and the government has no trouble in filling any vacancies which may occur. Proof of this is furnished by the recent occurrence of 49 vacancies in the office of tax collector.

When this fact became known a flood of applications began to come in. There are now on file the names of not less than 100,000 patriotic Frenchmen who are anxious to help the government in the collection of its revenues. The multitude of applications has compelled the authorities to impose the strictest possible conditions in the examination of candidates, and there is reason to hope that the 49 men who will get the vacant places may be held up to the world as absolutely ideal tax collectors.

New Aviation Records.

Almost from the time the Wright brothers made the first heavier-than-air flying machine France has taken the lead in aeronautics. This is not unusual, as from the time of Mongolfier flying has had a peculiar attraction for Frenchmen. In any event France has been and is the first aeronautic power. Now another flying record has been established here.

M. Busson, a noted aeroplanist, the other day followed a fox hunt by the Pau pack. He was flying for 45 min-

utes at a height of from 600 to 700 feet, witnessing every incident of the chase.

A short time ago the fashionable thing in Paris seemed to be to commit suicide; but, fortunately, the craze has now blown over. A commissary of police recently received a letter from an elderly man, begging him to come around and convey the remains of himself and wife to the mortuary with as little display as possible. The elderly man explained that, having lost all his money in business, and being tired of life, he and his wife had decided to go home; and, after stopping up all the crevices in the doors and windows, to turn on the gas and go to sleep forever.

Immediately on receiving the letter the commissary sent a representative to the address in question. The elderly gentleman and his wife received him, and admitted having written the letter, and they admitted, also, having resolved on suicide the night before.

Their plans, however, had been frustrated in a most commonplace manner. As arranged, they had plugged up the doors and windows and composed themselves for death, and then the husband, on turning the gas-pipe, was disappointed to find that there was no gas there. The fact was elicited that the gas bill having been unpaid, the company had cut off the supply, thereby unwittingly saving two human lives.

New Wrinkles in Food.

Extraordinary dishes figured, as is the custom of such occasions, at the annual banquet of the French National Acclimatization society, which took place today at the buffet of the Gare de Lyon here. Rare animals, hailing from the most remote lands, were pressed into the service, together with fruits and vegetables quite as exotic, and the guests are said to have thoroughly enjoyed their curious meal. Indeed, the head cook, who had devoted a fortnight to preliminary experiment, was warmly complimented at the close of the banquet by members of the society on the marvellous success that he had achieved, and this fully rewarded him for the skill and attention which he had devoted to a by no means easy task.

A new dish in Paris has been quite the rage during the past week. It is "Le Bleriot au gratin," a pastry in the shape of an aeroplane filled with forced meat.

Nobleman on Trial.

The Paris courts have been busy with the trial of a French nobleman, the Vicomte Emmanuel de Gosson de Barlin, whose history, as it came out in the course of the proceedings, is entertaining. The Vicomte Gosson de Barlin comes of an old stock, which traces its lineage back to the eleventh century. The vicomte was accused of the misappropriation of funds of a brewing establishment to the extent of \$55,000.

The origin of the case reveals how his noble family became very democratic in its occupations. His father, deprived of his hereditary estates, had become a commission agent at the Central markets. His business having failed, his only resource, it is alleged, was to become a conjuror. The son sought to embrace the judicial career, and obtained the post of notary's clerk after which he qualified as a process-server, and secured the office of a "huissier."

It was as process-server that the Brasserie de la Meuse called upon him. The brewery had an account of \$37,000 with a bankrupt. The Vicomte de Gosson promised to collect the debt. The company gladly advanced him all the money that he required. He drew, it is argued, so frequently on the brewery that before they were aware of it the advances made to him amounted to \$55,000. The vicomte had pursued the recovery of the fugitive debt for seven years, and had instituted lawsuits in Belgium and Switzerland, which served as a pretext for drawing on the funds of the company.

PEACE ADVOCATE DEAD.

VIENNA, Feb. 10.—The well authenticated report that Count Aerenthal, the Austrian foreign minister, is to retire at the conclusion of the regular session of the delegations will be regarded with regret by all those who are anxious for the preservation of the peace of Europe, for Aerenthal has been one of the most powerful influences for peace in Europe during the recent crises and for this reason has been the target for bitter and persistent attack on the part of the Austrian war party.

It is well known that there have been very serious differences of opinion between what is the party in Vienna, headed by the heir apparent, and Count Aerenthal, who recently scored an important success in the enforced retirement of Baron Conrad von Hotzendorf, chief of the general staff. Baron Conrad, it was openly stated at

the time, desired to force hostilities with Italy, but was prevented from doing so by the decision of the peace-loving Emperor, who practically compelled him to resign his post.

The ostensible cause of the foreign minister's retirement will be his health. He has been and is a very sick man, but if it were not for the persistent warfare against him he undoubtedly would hold on until the European situation was clarified.

Wife Refuses to Be Sold.

An amusing story has just come to light from the village of Bunyevac, near Siroedin. A small farmer, named Naval, when attending the cattle market met an old friend, named Sinko. They retired to a cafe, where they remained talking for a long time. As time went on they became mellowed, and their tongues were rendered less discreet and Sinko in a burst of confidence intimated to Naval that he had at one time sighed for the latter's wife, who was celebrated throughout the region for her beauty.

Naval thereupon said that if Sinko had still the same affection for the woman an arrangement could easily be effected, all that was necessary was for Sinko to make a reasonable offer.

Sinko jumped at the chance, and offered to give Naval 1050 francs for his wife, and the offer was at once accepted. An agreement was drawn up and signed, and the two friends set out for the farm for the completion of the bargain. When they arrived it fell to Naval to inform his wife of the transaction, and her response was immediate. After giving him a number of vigorous boxes on the ear she seized a broom and inflicted on him a chastisement so rapid and effective that Sinko left hurriedly, renouncing forever his claim to the beautiful and robust Mme. Naval.

Turns Life Upside Down.

Vienna can boast a curious eccentric who turns life upside down, a rich young Pole, who lives in sumptuous style, but always summons his servants by bugle call. His favorite pastime is driving an omnibus, attired like an ordinary busman, and, though he is said to spend a fortune each year in clothes, he wears no garment until it has been worn by his valet. He has astonished guests at a ball by appearing in a costume of pure white, save for the shirt and tie, which are black. To complete his oddities, when dining, which he invariably does alone at a table d'hote, he reverses the usual order, beginning his meal with the sweets and ending with the soup.

CROWN PRINCE IS

VICTIM OF CANCER

BERLIN, Feb. 10.—The reports that the Crown Prince of Germany is really suffering from cancer of the throat, the disease which cut short the life of his grandfather, the Emperor Frederick, are gaining greater credence in high circles. It is of course impossible to get first hand information as to the truth of these reports and the inspired paragraphs which have appeared in the German papers that the failure of his royal highness to be with his wife recently when a son was born to them was due to a violent attack of catarrh, must be accepted, but in well informed circles it is accepted with very considerable allowance.

It is pointed out that for some years he has shown symptoms which are characteristic of this curse of the Hohenzollerns.

Like his great hero, Frederick the Great, William II yearned for healthy sons, and set out to "harden" them before they could toddle. The crown prince was emphatically not a case for that kind of treatment. A delicate and nervous boy, he needed a certain amount of "coddling" until he got into his teens, and as there have not been wanting people injudicious enough to attribute his delicate health to the kaiser's drastic methods, that is one of the several grudges that he owes his father. The crown prince does his own coddling now, for he is vindictively anxious to outlive the kaiser, but neither in brain nor in body is he really strong.

CHARGES OF GRAFT.

ROME, Feb. 10.—Grave charges of graft in the supplying of stores to the troops in Tripoli have aroused the people and the government has undertaken a rigid examination and promises drastic punishment to those who are found to be engaged in the fraudulent operations.

Everything goes to show that the full light of publicity has not even yet been thrown into all the dark corners of this amazing scandal. The report drawn up by General Pagani is now in the hands of the minister of war. As the result of the inquiry at Naples and owing to numerous apparently well-founded rumors, a still more searching inquiry is to be instituted into the whole matter of the supply of food and stores since the beginning of the war. The inquiry will be extended to all the ports from which troops and stores have been shipped to the theater of war. The preliminary steps for this general inquiry would seem already to have begun. It is stated that a high military officer, accompanied by two other officers, all in civilian attire, paid a visit to the military bakery, where several soldiers and some private persons were privately questioned. As a result four

army bakers were placed under arrest. It would seem that in consequence of the greater vigilance which has been exercised during the last few days it was discovered that systematic robbery had been going on for a long time in the bakery department. Short deliveries are said to have been made to various regiments, and a non-commissioned officer, who is alleged to have been responsible for the defalcation, has been arrested.

ICELAND MAY REVOLT.

CHRISTIANIA, Feb. 10.—Trouble is brewing in Iceland. The population there is of Norwegian origin, only became subject to Denmark by a political accident, and has never ceased to dream of independence. All parties seem at last to be united to demand a form of home rule, which will mean separation, except that the King of Denmark will still be acknowledged as constitutional monarch of the island. It will be an odd coincidence if Ireland and Iceland obtain satisfaction simultaneously.

NEW ASPECTS OF BISMARCK

A French army surgeon, named Czernicki, in a supplement to the *Gazette*, gives a very interesting and pleasing reminiscence of Bismarck, placing the Iron Chancellor in an unaccustomed light. Dr. Czernicki had been left in charge of an ambulance at Rezonville before the siege of Metz, and when Bazaine ordered the retreat of the Second Corps d'Armee into Metz on the night of August 6-17, the ambulance, with some 6000 wounded, was left behind and found itself within the Prussian lines. On the morning of the 19th Dr. Czernicki was accosted by an officer, who informed him that the King of Prussia, with his suite, was in Rezonville, and that he would introduce him to Count Bismarck. The rest may be told in his own words.

"There on a stone bench, close to the door of a rustic cottage, at 7 in the morning, was seated alone the celebrated Prussian Minister at breakfast. He had spread a sheet of paper on his knees, upon which lay cold meat, sausages and bread. Beside him on the bench was a bottle, from which he was drinking. When he saw us he left off eating and, rising to his full height, saluted with a kindly laugh. The following conversation, which I wrote out the same evening in my notebook, then took place in French:

"You are taking part, sir, in a terrible war for a start in your career," he said. "What a sight, what suffering! It is not you or these poor mutilated fellows that I should like to see here, but your Senators and Deputies. They would see what war is! Look at it! Have you many wounded?"

"In reply to my question whether the Germans had also lost many, Bismarck said: 'Six times as many as in 1866. But do you believe, sir, and does the French army believe, that it was I who wanted war?' Taking off his helmet he went on. 'Look at me! I am threatened with an apopleptic stroke, and was quietly going through a cure, and never thought I should have to interrupt and change it for the life of the camp.'

Always Ready for War.

"Just then the chaplain of the ambulance, the Abbe Bolard, came up, and asked, 'But, M. le Comte, if you did not want war, what was the meaning of the Hohenzollern candidature?' to which Bismarck replied textually, 'Upon my word! anybody really swallow that? M. de Gramont is too refined a gentleman and too good a sportsman to be a good politician. That was invented to force on war. We were challenged not to retreat any further. Already, four years ago, we had shown great patience in the Luxemburg affair, and you were less ready then than you are today. You only forget one thing. And that is that we are always ready for war, and that if we are forced to fight we carry on war in the severest sense. You have had proof of this, and with a gesture of satisfaction he haughtily and coldly pointed to the battlefield, which had called forth his deep emotion a few minutes previously.

"Then, changing the conversation suddenly, he asked me: 'Do you know, Monsieur, where is the Emperor?' 'I am absolutely ignorant,' I answered, reflecting that probably the whole reason of the interview, beginning with humanitarian sentiments and turning to violence, was simply to find out the whereabouts of the Emperor, whom he wrongly believed up to August 19 to be with the army of Metz.

"Field Marshal Roon then came up and also asked after the whereabouts of the Emperor, after which Doctor Czernicki was requested to lead the way to where the German wounded were housed, and the cortege, with Bismarck and De Roon at the head, marched off.

"Here truth compels me to say," proceeds Doctor Czernicki, "that nothing can describe the solicitude and interest shown by the minister of war,

without exception, to all. To each one he addressed some intimate and personal remark, reminding him of his own place, and often of personal friends, assuring them that news would be sent to their families. We were not accustomed, on our side, to see our wounded comforted by embraces and words from such high quarters.

Battlefield Incident.

"Out of this long visit to the battlefield I will only tell one episode, which places Bismarck in a new light. Seated on some straw and propped up against a pillar of the Church of Rezonville was one of our poor soldiers, a quite young man named Rossignol. A shell, striking him like the lash of a whip, had carried away both eyes and the bridge of his nose, leaving the front of the skull bare. This fearful wound was covered with a dressing. He lay there calm, silent and motionless, in quiet resignation. Bismarck stopped in front of him and asked me what was his case. He seemed really touched. 'There is war for you, Messieurs the Senators and Deputies!' Then turning to one of his suite, he said, 'Please bring me some wine and a glass.' He filled the glass to the brim, took a sip, and then, gently tapping the shoulder of the poor martyr, said: 'My friend, will you not drink something?' Rousing himself from the deathlike stupor that was creeping over him, the man assented.

"We then saw Bismarck stoop and very softly and slowly give the wounded soldier the wine. Rising again, he drank what was left in the glass, and said, 'What is your name, my boy, and where do you come from?' 'Rossignol, from Brittany.' The count then took his hand, and said: 'I am Bismarck, my comrade, and I am very proud to have drunk out of the same glass as a brave man like you,' and stretching his hand over the horribly mutilated head, he seemed to give him a mute benediction.

It only remains to add to this touching and pleasing anecdote that at the

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request of Doctor Czernicki the two Prussian ministers gave every facility for having the ambulance, full of wounded, transported into the French lines of Metz.

GREAT PROGRESS IN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

Marconi rejoiced when, in 1897, he succeeded in sending a wireless message a distance of three miles. By 1907 he had established regular wireless communication across the Atlantic. Since then vessels have been "picked up" at sea from shore stations at distances of from 2000 to 4000 miles. In November last Marconi sent a message from the Coltano station, in Italy, to the Glace Bay station, Nova Scotia, 4000 miles. The San Francisco operator, a month earlier, conversed for a period of fifteen minutes with the Japanese station on the island of Hokuahu, a distance of 6000

miles. Wireless communication, it is expected, will be opened up between Italy and Argentina with the completion of the new station at Buenos Ayres. The air line distance between these stations will be 7000 miles. The installation of wireless apparatus on ships is being gradually extended. Until recently few vessels outside of warships and steamships of the liner class have been so equipped. Now various countries are by legislation compelling many smaller passenger-carrying craft to install such apparatus. Great Britain is reported to be planning the establishment of a chain of wireless stations to encircle the globe. This is to be a subsidized system under the control of the Postoffice Department. Such a chain of stations would give England wireless connection with her colonial possessions in various parts of the world, making her independent of cables, which are liable to be cut in time of war.—Review of Reviews.